

WILLENHALL AND SHORT HEATH AREA PANEL

Area Manager's Report

Thursday 12th January 2017

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform Elected Members for the Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership of some of the work carried out within the local area.
- 1.2 Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership has a number of key priorities which have been identified through work with partner agencies, Walsall Intelligence Network and the local community.
- 1.3 The strategic priorities are:
 - Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities
 - Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people
 - Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people in to work
 - Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people
- 1.4 Partners involved includes: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Unit, Youth Support Services, West Midlands Police, residents, Ward Councillors, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), West Midlands Probation Service, Walsall Intelligence Network, Environmental Health, Reassurance Team, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership, Public Health, Caldmoreaccord Housing Association, Walsall Voluntary Action, West Midlands Fire Service, Social Care and Inclusion, Area Family Support Team, Trading Standards, Community Development, Substance Matters, Willenhall CHART, Willenhall E-Act, Clean and Green, Sports and Leisure, Jobcentre Plus, Steps to Work, Welfare Rights, Walsall College, Holy Trinity Online Centre, Libraries

2. Safer Walsall: Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities

2.1 Crime and anti-social behaviour continues to be discussed at the Confidential Tasking Meetings in Willenhall chaired by the Area Manager. Various partner agencies are involved in the discussions and actions undertaken to support those affected by the issues.

2.2 Through the work of the police team, supported by local intelligence, they have been able to tackle crime in various locations.

If you see anyone or anything suspicious in your local community please call officers on 101. Always dial 999 if a crime is in progress.

Likewise if you have information on people or properties linked to the handling of stolen property please call officers or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111.

Crime prevention literature/flyers are available; please contact WS Partnerships ws_partnerships@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk,

2.3 Policing – Willenhall North & Short Heath; Willenhall South

Update from Police Sergeant Harjinder Cheema 9125

The recent changes within the WMP saw the merger of all three beats, this being Willenhall North, Short Heath and Willenhall South combined into one team under Willenhall NHT, which is being led by Sergeant Harj Cheema.

At present the staffing numbers are slightly under the predicted 7 PCSO's and 7 PC's with the team currently running at 4 PC's and 4 PCSO's.

There has been a change in management with the arrival of Inspector Sophie Worthington, who has taken over the outer sector of Walsall Neighbourhood Police Unit and is the new Inspector in charge of the Willenhall & Short Heath Area.

Under the WMP2020 changes, there is a big focus on Neighbourhood Policing with the Next Generation of local policing concentrating on prevention at the earliest opportunity.

With this in mind the NHT's are looking at individuals and families, who have come to light and who are of concern.

Working in partnership with other agencies help and support is given to reduce demand and kerb criminality by persistent engagement and guidance. Neighbourhood teams are paying importance to early intervention and preventative problem solving to reduce demand, whilst reaching out into the

community to build community resilience by the implementation of the Active Citizens scheme.

The Willenhall Town Centre Christmas Fayre was held on the 3/12/16, which had a good turnout of both stall holders and the public. Both PCSO's and PC's were allocated to the event, which passed without incident.

The NHT continues to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) issues across the area with the implementation of curfew times built into the Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), which has seen a decrease in these types of (ASB) incidents.

Across the whole of Willenhall & Short Heath there are currently 14 individuals subject to ABC contracts.

On the lead up to the darker nights and Christmas there was the seasonal trend of offences involving burglary and shop and theft.

This was taken into account and counter acted by the implementation of specific patrol strategies and where required Neighbourhood Team (NHT) officers working later than normal into the night.

Although there was an increase in burglary dwellings, the total recorded crime figure for the last 3 months (Sept to Dec) has seen no rise and remained the same for the whole of the Willenhall area compared year to year.

2.4 Willenhall Community Fire Station

Willenhall Fire Service Clarkes Lane continues to promote safety in schools, especially around the Dark Nights and Fire Works Safety.

West Midlands Fire Service has started a Public consultation, which ran until the 10th January 2017.

The consultation was about:-

- The Fire Services,
- accountability to communities and
- funding.

www.wmfs.net

The Fire Service undertook an Open Day on Friday 16th December to highlight the successes, Performance Indicators and emerging priorities of the Service.

3. Children and Young People: Improving safeguarding, learning and life chances for children and young people

3.1 Frank F Harrison, the Commissioned Youth Service for Willenhall & Short has been engaging a number of young people and delivered services across the area.

3.2 **Youth Service – Update from Liam Perrens – Commissioned Youth Service – Frank F Harrison**

From the last report Youth Teams have continued to engage with young people across the Willenhall and Short Heath areas.

As we go into the last quarter we are waiting to find out what the allocation of funding will be for Commissioned Services, as we have been told there are different resource models for funding being looked at.

We understand that there will be a 50% reduction to Commissioned Youth Services however we are not sure what the agreed amount for each area will be.

If it was 50% of this year's allocation it would not mean a 50% in services and sessions as the more sessions delivered the less cost per session it works out.

This year we have had to meet certain criteria for the Commissioning of Youth Service, such as:

- deliver so many session per ward,
- deliver for an minimum amount of weeks/ session per year,
- only having one session per week per ward for 9 to 12 years old
- the other session being for 13 years old,
- target 25% of the total amount of young people in the area
- many forms to be completed and filled in.

This has thrown up many issues as many of these criteria are:

- a) either impossible,
- b) causes issues or
- c) have extra cost implications.

As a previously commissioned provider of Youth Services we were not involved in making these criteria. If we were we would have been able to inform Council Members of the issues.

We have not been informed what criteria we will need to meet for next year's commissioning of Youth Service so it makes it is difficult to map out what type of service we could provide until we know the outcome, in late February 2017.

We are still currently waiting for an answer for the use of the council's Youth Service Hopper vehicle. I understand that it is with WMBC's Legal Team to sort an Service Level Agreement (SLA) so we can use it.

I have been told at the Frank F Contract Review Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2016 that it was moving ahead but we are still waiting the outcome.

This has vastly limited the delivery of sessions we have been able to complete. The Hopper Vehicle would increase engagement and allow for sessions to be completed where there is no provision and even in bad weather, of the three vehicles I believe only one is being used.

Youth Teams will start to inform young people of changes to the Youth Services and the withdrawal of some provisions.

The Youth Coordinator is writing several funding bids to help in any reduction we may receive in 2017, as this year will see planned funding end or cut. We have always struggled with resources as staff and governance cost comes before resources.

While we have been loaned some equipment from Walsall Youth Service this is for the life of our commissioned service and there is insufficient equipment for the amount of sessions we complete. No matter what funding we will receive it will mean a reduction in youth sessions being delivered.

In November 2016 we received an email that Big Lottery Fund and Government had announced an £80 million funding boost for the Youth Sector.

Before an application was submitted we had to meet some criteria set and attend a meeting with Big Lottery about our application.

Due to the strict criteria it ruled out lots of local groups putting an application in for this funding. The money will open up opportunities for young people to get involved in their communities and gain new experiences, to support their personal development, build character and help them succeed in the future.

Local voluntary youth groups will be able to bid for a share of the funding, which builds on the Prime Minister's commitment to building a country that works for all through creating opportunity and developing individual potential.

Winning youth projects could include clubs offering activities from football to basketball, arts and drama courses, enterprise training or volunteering opportunities. Walsall Voluntary Action has supported us with the application; we have already had a phone call regarding our application and will know results by March 2017.

All youth teams have continued to work in partnership with the local police teams, shopkeepers and local agencies to refer and work to tackle local issues.

Our youth staff have attended a two day training course offered by an external organisation, this involved:

- Safeguarding Young People from Extremism on day one
- Gangs, Violence and Misuse of Drugs and Alcohol on day two.

All youth staff fully enjoyed this course and gained an excellent knowledge.

Youth sessions were closed down between Sunday 18th December 2016 and started back on Monday 9th January 2017.

Due to the nature of youth work being a sessional job, many youth staff use it as a second job as they already have a full time job.

Staff that do not have a full time job complete multiple sessions in the week to have it worth their while.

We have had 4 staff leave in this period due to staff getting new full time jobs.

We have not been able to replace these staff as there is only 4 months left of the contract and we have been able to cover the sessions.

Willenhall North

The Youth Team have completed 52 youth sessions between September to December 2016 with 547 total engagements from young people.

These engagements are based on 4 sessions per week being delivered and each young person being counted each time they engage and not individually counting once no matter how many times they attend.

The Youth Staff continue to experience challenges in engaging some of the young people in the New Invention (Square) area.

We have been in discussions with Walsall Council's Direct Youth Service to request support in tackling the Anti Social Behaviour in this area. It was agreed that we would work in partnership on a Wednesday evening where Walsall Council Youth Service would bring a Hopper vehicle and work with the older young people and we would work with the younger group.

With both groups of young people being engaged youth staff completed targeted work about the effects of Anti Social Behaviour and the law around it including housing tenancies.

From the work we have been delivering with the younger age group we have been able to complete more targeted work and general fun youth activities.

Some of the older group have seen these activities and have even participated without any issues.

The Youth Team believe they are slowly breaking down the barriers that were created in the summer. Unfortunately the Youth Team have not seen the council's Youth Service at the location on a Wednesday after about 3 weeks, they are unsure if they attend the location on a different evening. Young people often ask the Youth Team where the bus is and when is it coming, only for staff to inform young people that they are unsure and getting the full front of disappointment from young people.

In the Willenhall North area Youth Workers have engaged with younger young people than our contract allows. The commissioned contract concentrates on 13 years old and older young people however we are finding that the young people that engage with the Willenhall North team are between 9 – 12 years old.

Lately we come across some issues within the community. Youth staff have reported two vacant buildings that people are accessing and damaging.

Youth Staff have also had to deal with young people believing that they have been offered and promised things from Youth Workers when it has been community members or others that have offered and promised these items. This has damaged some relationships that the youth that staff have developed.

Due to the weather and time of year Coppice Farm estate has been very quiet with young people and issues. The Youth Team have attend the area on one evening per week however minimum session have been delivered in the area as Youth Workers often travel to another area when it is quiet.

The Youth Team have been able to have discussions with New Invention Library about using the room upstairs. Currently the Youth Team have based themselves in the Library to complete some activities with the young people and build relationships. Unfortunately on the last session before Christmas one young person caused some damage in the Library and is now banned.

Willenhall South

Outreach session continues to be the most popular out of all the outreach session provisions offered by Frank F Harrison Community Association. We have complete 55 outreach session between September to December 2016 with 701 total engagements from young people. These engagements are based on 4 sessions per week being delivered and each young person being counted each time they engage and not individually counting once no matter how many times they attend.

In November and December 2016 the Willenhall South Team have been Tasked with attending a fast food outlet every night they are on a session. This has been due to the site being refurbished and possible ASB by young people

who use the free Wifi and cause disturbance to visiting customers. When they have been asked to leave the issues have started. It has reached the stage where the store has employed a security guard.

Youth Staff have opened the Willenhall Memorial Park Pavilion to young people on a Thursday evening. Staff have brought in Table football, Table tennis, Arts and Crafts, Xbox, Films and also carried out educational sessions.

The Senior Youth Worker and the Youth Coordinator continues to attend the Friends of the Park meetings to give regular updates, partnership work and find out what is going on in the area.

Short Heath

There have been 54 sessions completed in this period between September to December 2016 with 517 engagements from young people.

These engagements are based on 4 sessions per week being delivered and each young person being counted each time they engage and not individually counting once no matter how many times they attend.

There are certain nights where the youth staff does not see many young people, if any at all.

This was also the case in the last youth contract where we delivered the Willenhall area youth provision but were not allocated to one ward but could deliver across Willenhall.

This meant when it was a quiet night we could attend another ward in the Willenhall area to engage with young people that was causing Anti Social Behavior.

We have also had meetings with the Area Manager, local groups and police officers from that area and they have highlighted other areas of Willenhall including New Invention requiring more support or sessions.

The Youth Coordinator has requested if it was possible to use two out of the four sessions of the Short Heath delivery to help other areas to engage young people and provide youth provision in multiple areas of one ward on one night.

This will allow us to support Willenhall North or Willenhall South when they require support but would not mean the Short Heath teams are assigned to the Willenhall North or Willenhall South areas. This would also mean the Short Heath team could deliver sessions back in Short Heath if they should require however this was not granted.

The Youth Team have secured the use of the newly renovated back room of the Bridge Pub on a Monday evening.

This has been operational for 4 week and has around 8 young people attend the session so far. Young people do not need to access the pub as the rear room can be accessed from the rear of the building.

The room is separate to the rest of the pub and the landlord has given the team access to a projector, sound system, toilets, hot drinks and some snacks.

The Short Heath Team has continued to work between Haley and Greadier Street with the young people. This comes from reports from Area Partnerships and ongoing ASB issues.

4. Business and Jobs: Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people into work

4.1 The 5th Annual Funding & Information Exhibition was held in Wolverhampton in November. The sessions was a free event with information advice and guidance for groups seeking funding.

Various presentations were available, ranging from Wolves Aid, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Prince's Trust and the Heart of England Community Foundation.

4.2 Bridges will be delivering at Willenhall Memorial Park. It is targeted to those who are aged 25+ and unemployed

Bridges can offer.

- Confidence building and motivation
- Job search support
- Training in an informal, fun setting
- Creative activities in small groups
- One to one support

For more information call Beth on 07802 07802 or email bethan.roberts@stepstowork.co.uk

5.0 Health and Well-Being: Improving health, including well-being and independence for older people

5.1 Healthy Walking Events in Willenhall & Short Heath

Walsall Walk On Health Walks Programme



Walking is one of the best and easiest ways of becoming more active.

Walsall Walk On provides a weekly programme of free health walks across the borough within parks and countryside spaces that are specially designed to benefit your health.

All walks are led by trained walk leaders and vary in distance and intensity and provide opportunities for all levels. It is advisable to contact your GP before starting a new exercise regime.

Walking regularly can:

- Help weight loss
- Ease back pain
- Reduce the risks of heart disease
- Increase bone strength
- Improve muscle tone and joint flexibility
- Lead to improved balance and co-ordination helping to prevent falls
- Increase your confidence, stamina and energy
- Help with anxiety and stress and increase relaxation

Willenhall Memorial Park

Meet: The Pavilion, Willenhall Memorial Park

Monday: Duration: 30 minutes approx. Distance: 1.5km (1 mile)

Tuesday: Duration: 1½ hours approx. Distance: 5km (3 miles)

Thursday: Duration: 1 - 1¼ hours approx. Distance: 2.5 - 5 km (2-3 miles)

All walks meet at 10.15am for a 10.30am start

For more information on Walk On please call Sport and Leisure Development Services on **01902 605500**.

5.2 Over 50's event FREE event was held on Wednesday 16 November.

It was an 'Over 50s Showcase Event'. The event was aimed at anyone living or working in the borough that is aged 50 and above.

There were information stalls, activities and demonstrations, a raffle, light refreshments and several special guests, including the Mayor of Walsall and Doreen, Queen of Tipton.

It was a successful event with individuals being informed of different services and activities occurring across the borough.

Other

Cycling in the Dark

The UK legal minimum for riding after dark is:

- one front white light
- one rear red light
- plus the reflectors that should already be on your bike.

Wear reflective clothing : wear a brightly coloured, reflective waistcoat or a reflective belt as these will make you more visible on darker, rainy or foggy days and after dark.

Consider where you place your lights on your bike so that they can be seen as clearly as possible, particularly by car drivers.

Consider a helmet-mounted light or an additional rear light or reflector on the back of your coat or bag.

Day or night, if you're not sure if it's dark enough for lights it's always best to put them on.

Once they're fitted make sure your lights and reflectors aren't obscured by clothing or bags.

It is also worth keeping a backup set of lights at work, and some spare batteries.

More information from

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/what-you-can-do/cycling/guide-cycling-dark>

Cyber Crime Survey

Warwickshire, West Mercia and the West Midlands have joined forces to launch a survey which will look at how people are affected by online crime and how aware they are of the dangers that exist

- How safe do you feel online?
- Help us to get a picture of cyber crime in the region by completing this annual cyber crime survey.
- To fill in the survey, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RegionalCyber16>.
- Closing date for responses was Monday 9th January 2017.

Further events can be found at <http://www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk/>

Michael Greenfield; Area Manager - Willenhall & Short Heath Email: michael.greenfield@walsall.gov.uk